

Pilgrim Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
Harwich Port, Massachusetts



Sunday, January 5, 2025

***We come together to grow in faith
and joyfully share God's love with all.***

Welcome to our Worship Service

An asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand if you are able.

Prelude “Bourree II from English Suite 2” J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

We acknowledge one another with a nod, wave, or “Peace be with you.”

Chimes

*Call to Worship

One: We come to this place -

All: each of us are on our own path.

One: The path is winding,

All: and the path is not always clear,

One: and the path changes,

All: but we are here.

One: God is walking us home.

All: What a gift it is to not walk alone.

One: Let us worship our Holy God.

Lighting the Christ Candles and Peace Candle

***Hymn** “Brightest and Best” #157

Call to Prayer

One: I imagine that, for the Magi, walking to Bethlehem was not easy. I imagine that following a star for

navigation was definitely not easy. However, I imagine that the hardest part might have been not knowing where the road would lead. Friends, we are not always the best versions of ourselves when we are faced with uncertainty or changing plans. Facing the unknown pulls on every ounce of our anxiety and fear. It rings all our stress alarms and can erode our patience, our calm, our sense of perspective. Fortunately for us, we worship a God who is gracious beyond imagination and meets us on every twist and turn of the road home. So let us pray together now, knowing that even in our worst moments, we are held by God.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

All: God of changed plans,

One: The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home -

All: a different path, an untraveled road.

One: And to our amazement, they did just that.

All: The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.

One: We wish change could be easy for us,

All: but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.

One: Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy.

All: Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one way home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life, God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there. So hear and believe this good news: No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved and held by God.

All: **Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.**

Anthem "Sonata in B-flat, K 472" Domenico Scarlatti

Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 (New Testament page 2)

Words of Reflection *"Following a Star"*
Beverly Nightingale, Bethany Craig, and Bill Crowell

***Hymn** "The First Nowell" #139

Call to Offering

Offertory "Sonata in F minor, K 466" Domenico Scarlatti

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of new beginnings, we offer these gifts to you today because we love you. The world will tell us to keep our money to ourselves, to hold it tight, to tuck it away. But just as the Magi made a different choice, we make a different choice. Instead, we

give what we have, trusting that when we live like we belong to one another, we will see a better world. So, take these gifts and use them for your good. With hope we pray, Amen.

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We celebrate an open table and welcome all to taste and see God's goodness here. The cup is grape juice and the bread is gluten-free.

The Invitation

We have come asking for the child —
Wondering where that love might be born,
Seeking that joy that might satisfy our thirst,
Wandering through the darkness of so many mistakes.
We have come to this place where
wise ones and shepherds and a young woman met.
We have come to this place called Bethlehem.
To this place where our hearts rise like yeast.
To this place where we meet our newborn hope.
To this place where we taste our deepest joy.
In Bethlehem, where we assumed the worst,
Imagining that no good can come,
We somehow missed its name.
Bethlehem.
Lehem meaning bread.
Bethel meaning house.
There is something here that will satisfy our hunger.
No matter how long we have wandered,
Here our hearts arise. Our light has come.

In this bread and in this cup,
We celebrate something we can't quite understand.
Because God has made a house at this table.
Because God satisfies our hunger in the most unlikely places.
Because God comes to be with us.
Now and always.
It is with this expectation that we come to the table
to taste and see that God is here.

Communion Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

Sanctus

Words of Institution

Sharing Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so long ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step you have claimed us, loved us and fed us.

One: Today we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas, with meaning, challenge and invitation yet to be revealed. As this new year dawns, O God, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us as well. Allow us to use these star words as a tool to draw us in deeper relationship with you.

All: **May these words guide us, as the star guided the Magi. A year from now, may we find ourselves here, together again, with mouths full of praise for the ways in which you have been present with us, as we have been led to be more present with you. Amen.**

***Hymn** “Arise, Your Light Is Come” #164

***Benediction**

Postlude “Courante from Partita in D Major” J.S. Bach

Lay Readers Needed!

We need Lay Reader volunteers. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the offices.

Christmas Undecorating Day

Tuesday, January 7 at 10am

We will gather to “undecorate” the church. Many hands make light work, so please consider giving us a hand if you are able.

Pilgrim Congregational Church

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For an appointment, please contact Rev. Amie –
revamie@pcchp.org

To receive our weekly church email, please contact
the church office.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Minister: Rev. Amie Stuart Giguere

Guest Accompanist: James Rosenblum

Lay Worship Leader: Barbara Prindle-Eaton

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Dick and Sally Smith

The steeple was lit on December 25 by Linda Johnson
“commemorating Violet Mae (8) and Vivian Fern (6),
from Grandma Linda.”

This Week at Pilgrim Church:

Tuesday, January 7	10am Izzy's Team 10am Christmas Undecorating 2pm Afterschool Gym No Choir
Wednesday, January 8	3pm Joyful Prayer Group
Thursday, January 9	9am Study Group 11am Coffee and Conversation No Bell Choir
Friday, January 10	11am Knitting Group

Deacons' Meeting: 2nd Tuesday at 10am

Trustees' Meeting: 2nd Tuesday at 3:30pm

Church Council Meeting: 3rd Thursday at 3:00pm

Missions and Outreach Meeting: 3rd Sunday at 8:30am

Vision Team Meeting: 2nd Wed. at 5pm and 4th Sun. at 11:30am

Calling Church Officers and members of the Council, Deacons, Trustees and Missions:



1. Planning Retreat for Church Leaders

All are invited to attend a Planning Retreat on Saturday, January 18 from 9am to noon. Please mark your calendars and save the date so we can work together to set the calendar for 2025 and collaborate in ways to live into our purpose and vision.

2. Installation

During worship on Sunday, January 12 will be the ritual of Installation of Officers, Boards, and Committees. We hope you can attend!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



On Sunday, January 19 at 3pm the Harwich Clergy Association will be offering a worship service in honor of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Location TBD.

Missions Fellowship Luncheon



The Missions and Outreach Committee had postponed the Thanksgiving Luncheon to January. The date will be Sunday, January 26 after worship. Please save the date and plan to attend!